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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Immigration Enforcement

Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with the United Kingdom Government, and with Police Scotland, regarding the community response to attempted immigration enforcement action in Kenmure Street in Glasgow, on 13 May.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): I thank Patrick Harvie for asking that important question.

Yesterday, the First Minister and I spent a significant amount of time engaging with the Home Office and Police Scotland in seeking a safe resolution to the scenes that we saw on Kenmure Street. The actions of the Home Office yesterday were, at best, utterly incompetent and, at worst, intended to provoke. Either way, they were completely unacceptable.

Throughout the day, I was in regular discussion with Police Scotland as it updated me on its operational approach to Home Office action that, in my view, placed it in an invidious position. I was pleased to see the statement from Police Scotland yesterday evening that noted that the people who had been detained had been released back into their community and that those who had been protesting subsequently dispersed peacefully.

I shared my concerns with the director of immigration enforcement for Scotland and Northern Ireland and urged him to abandon the forced removal. Unfortunately, no Home Office ministers deemed the issue to be serious enough to meet me at the time. Later, I participated in a video call with the First Minister and the junior Minister for Future Borders and Immigration, Kevin Foster MP, in which the First Minister made it crystal clear to the Home Office that the actions at Kenmure Street were utterly unacceptable and were endangering the public's health. She expressed the Scottish Government's deep concern and anger about the operation, especially given that it was done in the heart of a community that was celebrating Eid. To take that action in Pollokshields the day after the First Minister warned of an upsurge in Covid cases in the south side of Glasgow was completely reckless.

Assurances were sought from the UK Government that it will never again create, through its actions, such a dangerous situation. It did not provide those assurances. It is increasingly clear that the UK Government is incapable of delivering an immigration and asylum process that reflects Scotland's values of compassion and dignity.

Patrick Harvie: I am grateful to the cabinet secretary for his response. The community response that we saw demonstrates the scale of anger at the UK Government's brutality in relation to immigration and asylum—in particular, to people who are seeking asylum, who are among the most vulnerable citizens of Glasgow, which is the city that I represent. That action being taken on Eid added insult to injury, and there are hundreds of people who will be vulnerable to such action in the future. On whatever day such action takes place, Scotland, Glasgow and, in particular, Pollokshields will continue to stand against it. I am pleased that the cabinet secretary has been engaging actively with the United Kingdom Government and Police Scotland. I have heard mixed views about aspects of the policing yesterday. Does the cabinet secretary agree that, in any such incident, Police Scotland's priorities must be the wellbeing and welfare of the people who are at the centre—the victims of immigration enforcement actions—as well as protection of the right of the public to peacefully resist such actions?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I have to say that the police were put in an invidious position yesterday. Police do not routinely accompany Border Force when it comes to forced removal, but when they are called out to an incident, they have to attend, just as they would any other incident.

I am satisfied that Police Scotland used a proportionate response and took responsibility for ensuring the safety of the protesters and those whose welfare was at risk. That was their priority. I am pleased that, having looked at the issue in the context of public safety and public health, Police Scotland came to the decision to release the two individuals who had been detained by the border agency.

I know that Police Scotland will continue to engage with communities. However, we should be absolutely careful about this and we should state very clearly on the record that the blame for yesterday's action lies squarely on the shoulders of the Home Office, which took, on Eid, reckless action in the heart not just of Glasgow's Muslim community but of Scotland's Muslim community, while fully understanding the reaction that that would provoke.

Patrick Harvie: I agree that Police Scotland is not to blame for the timing or instigation of the incident, but if the cabinet secretary is right that Police Scotland's priorities must always be to ensure the wellbeing of the people who are at the centre—the victims of enforcement

actions—and to ensure the safety of the public and their right to protest, I hope that it will not take it as long in the future to decide that releasing people in such circumstances is the right call.

I want to ask about the community itself. Although I wish for the power to implement a humane and decent asylum system, unlike the one that operates in the UK at the moment, we do not currently have that power. We have the power to resource our communities to support people who are most vulnerable to being on the receiving end of such actions, and to ensure that our communities are empowered and organised to resist. Resistance such as we saw in Pollokshields, which was so inspiring, does not happen by magic—it happens through communities being resourced and organised. What role could the Scottish Government have in supporting such community resistance?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: On the first part of Patrick Harvie’s question, let me reiterate that operational independence means that I will direct neither the chief constable nor Police Scotland on what to do. The chief constable’s operational independence will dictate what officers choose to do in any given circumstance. Of course, Police Scotland will approach each incident on a case-by-case basis.

Police Scotland having taken action to release the two individuals is not a guarantee that that will happen in every case; that will depend on the circumstances and the context of the situation. I say to Patrick Harvie that the long-term solution is our having control of our own asylum and immigration system—I know that he agrees with that—and ensuring that we can have a system that is based on dignity and compassion, and not one that is rooted in suspicion, as the current UK system is.

I agree about resourcing communities. We have a very proud track record of funding and resourcing a number of organisations, including the Scottish Refugee Council, the Govan Community Project, which works with asylum seekers in my constituency, and many others. Of course, we will continue to do that. ...

Anas Sarwar (Labour): I join the cabinet secretary and Patrick Harvie in condemning the actions of the Home Office in Pollokshields yesterday. It would have been unacceptable at any time, but I reiterate how unacceptable it was that it happened during a pandemic, at the height of a spike in cases, and on the holy day of Eid. We need an immigration policy that is rooted in human dignity and human rights, and I will work with anyone to deliver that—not just here, but across the UK.

There are, of course, big lessons for the Home Office to learn, but will lessons also be learned for how Police Scotland deals with such situations in the future? What support will be given to councils throughout Scotland so that we all proactively take responsibility for supporting asylum seekers here?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: In the interests of brevity, I will say simply that I think that Police Scotland was put in an extremely difficult position. I have spoken to some of the protesters who were there and have seen some of their social media commentary, and it seems to me that, by and large, the discussion and dialogue between Police Scotland and the protesters was very positive.

To give Anas Sarwar some assurance, I can also say that I have already had an exchange with Councillor Kelly Parry, who leads on the issue for the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, and that COSLA should absolutely be involved in any discussions that we have in the future about forming a progressive alliance—which I have written to Anas Sarwar about; I am sure that he will respond positively—to resist the hostile environment policy, so that other city councils can learn from the example of Glasgow City Council.

Annie Wells (Conservative): The cabinet secretary has highlighted the response from Police Scotland. What further support will be provided to the police to manage crowds that gather during the pandemic as we continue our fight against Covid-19?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Annie Wells is missing the point. The blame for what we saw yesterday lies squarely on the shoulders of the Home Office, which took

completely reckless action by going into the heart of Scotland's Muslim community on the day of Eid, when, frankly, I suspect that those high up in the Home Office knew that MSPs would be engaged in parliamentary process. At best, that action was utterly incompetent; at worst, it was designed to provoke.

Police Scotland will do the appropriate debriefing, but it was put in an absolutely invidious position. It is not its responsibility to reverse the undignified, incompassionate policies of the Home Office. However, I am sure that Police Scotland will be happy to debrief Annie Wells if she has any particular questions in that regard.

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour): I thank the cabinet secretary for his responses so far. The actions of the Home Office on the streets of Glasgow yesterday were disgusting. Has any assessment been made regarding the human rights of the two men who were detained in the Home Office's van on Kenmure Street yesterday? Does the Scottish Government believe that their human rights were breached?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Last night, I spoke to Aamer Anwar, who will be known to many members across the chamber and who, I understand, is acting for—he is certainly involved with—the two individuals who were detained. The First Minister, as the constituency MSP, has reiterated to those involved that her constituency office stands ready to assist wherever it can.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): Liberal Democrats have long argued for reform of the Home Office to strip it of its more draconian powers, which we saw deployed yesterday. In our democracy, there will always be times when circumstances demand an urgent act of public protest. Even in a pandemic, such acts must be supported to happen safely.

Therefore, will the cabinet secretary provide an update on the current guidance relating to peaceful public protest in the context of the current Covid restrictions? Will he give further consideration to how acts of public protest can be supported to take place safely in the future?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: As the member is aware, we do not encourage people to gather, although people have a human right to protest under the European convention on human rights. That is why Police Scotland has taken a very consistent approach. When people have gathered, it has facilitated their right to assembly regardless of what the protest has been against or for. Police Scotland will continue to take that consistent approach.

My message to people continues to be that they should not gather, because we are in the midst of a global pandemic: the virus has not gone away. I suspect that, if the rules, guidance and regulations regarding Covid did not exist, I would have been at the forefront on Kenmure Street, alongside the protesters. However, I did not go, because—as I said—the virus is still out there.

On the events that will take place over the weekend, I have been consistent in saying that, regardless of the circumstances, people should not gather, because the virus is still out there. I know that people's passions are running high, but I cannot stress enough that the situation in Glasgow is still at a critical juncture.

James Dornan (SNP): I place on record my admiration for the community resilience of the people in Pollokshields yesterday. Kenmure Street is not far from my constituency, and I know that some of those people were there to show Scottish solidarity.

The Home Office's deliberate, provocative act while the First Minister and the rest of the MSPs were being sworn in further exemplifies how cowardly, barbaric and lacking in any common decency the Tory Government really is.

Will the cabinet secretary ensure that Police Scotland, which is not to blame at all for what happened, is unequivocal in its stance that it will play no role in the inhumane removal of asylum seekers? Will he outline what steps the police will take to maintain and, indeed, strengthen relations with immigrant communities in Glasgow?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I will say two things briefly.

Police Scotland released a statement yesterday that stated unequivocally that it does not assist in the removal of asylum seekers. That is for the UK Border Agency. When Police Scotland is called out to an incident, it will, of course, attend, but it is not its role to implement any forced removal.

I can speak about Police Scotland as a constituency MSP for the south side of Glasgow, in particular. I know that Police Scotland maintains a very positive relationship with migrant communities, communities of asylum seekers and, indeed, refugees. Long may that continue.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13226&i=119818#ScotParlOR>

The Police Scotland statement referred to above can be read at <https://twitter.com/policescotland/status/1392828224929861636>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kenneth Gibson (SNP) [S6M-00021] European Union Citizens are Welcome in Scotland – That the Parliament understands that some EU citizens with job interviews are currently being sent to immigration removal centres and held in airport detention rooms across the UK, despite Home Office rules explicitly allowing non-visa holders to attend job interviews; acknowledges reports that among the people detained was a French citizen held at Edinburgh Airport for 48 hours; is concerned by the impact of the UK Government's "hostile environment" policy on the, mostly young, European citizens, who are believed to be being denied entry and detained; considers that this is an unacceptable situation; urges the UK Government to stop any refusal of EU nationals with job interviews entry at the border; recognises that European citizens have greatly enriched Scotland culturally and economically over recent decades, and reiterates its message that they remain welcome in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00021>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to change Rule GEN 1.11A of the Immigration Rules, in response to the decision in R (ST and VW) v SSHD [2021] EWHC 1085 (Admin) that the no recourse to public funds policy is unlawful.

Reply from Chris Philp: The policy of No Recourse to Public Funds has been upheld by successive governments and maintains that those seeking to establish their family life in the UK must do so on a basis that prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration.

In the case of ST vs SSHD the High Court dismissed five of the six grounds raised by the claimant challenging the lawfulness of the policy. We are currently reflecting on the judgment in relation to our child welfare responsibilities.

People with leave under family and human rights routes can already apply, free of charge, to have the no recourse to public funds condition lifted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/591>

The judgement referred to above can be read at <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/1085.html>

Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people her Department has on record as being in the UK with leave to remain but no recourse to public funds in each year since 2010.

Reply from Chris Philp: The no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition applies to millions of people, the vast majority of whom are visitors or other temporary migrants who have no need for public funds during their stay. It also applies to those without status, many of whom may not be in touch with the Home Office. We are not able to produce estimates of the total population present in the UK who are subject to NRPF

We do, however, publish quarterly immigration statistics on the number of entry clearance visas granted outside the UK almost all of whom will be travelling to the UK under the NRPF condition, and the latest figures for the year ending December 2020 can be found here: [Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The immigration statistics data for in-country extensions from 2010 to year ending December 2020 can be found here: [Extensions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The Home Office's Chief Statistician wrote to the Office for Statistics Regulation last July to explain why the Home Office is not able to provide a figure for the total number of people currently in the UK to whom the NRPF condition applies. His letter can be found at:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/response-from-daniel-shaw-to-ed-humpherson-parliamentary-question-response/>

Since this letter was published, the Home Office has begun to publish statistics on the numbers of people on the family and human rights routes who apply to the Home Office to have the NRPF condition lifted, and these are available in the Home Office transparency data relating to Changes of Condition, published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-february-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/592>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [594] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the end of the furlough scheme on people with leave to remain but no recourse to public funds; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme have been extended to the end of September 2021 to recognise some industries will return no earlier than 21 June.

Immigration status holders who do not return to work because they have lost their employment will need to check the conditions attached to their leave. Where their immigration status is linked to a particular job, they may need to find alternative employment or another basis of stay, and make a further application if they wish to remain in the UK.

People with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, or if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income. NRPF 'change of conditions' applications are prioritised and dealt with compassionately.

Data published in February 2021 for quarter 4 of 2020 shows the average time taken to make a decision on change of condition cases is 18 days. Of the decisions taken in the same period, 86% were granted. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-february-2021>

Other support available to people with an NRPF condition, such as contribution-based benefits, will continue to be available for those who meet the other eligibility criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/594>

Migrants: Domestic Abuse

Stephen Timms (Labour) [37] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants' report, We Are Here, published April 2021, what steps victims of domestic abuse should take who are without leave to remain and who are unwilling to report the abuse for fear of deportation.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: This Government is committed to supporting all victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their immigration status. Victims of crime are treated first and foremost as victims and are encouraged to report crimes to the police. If in doing so an individual is found to have no status in the UK, we carefully consider the individual's circumstances before determining whether enforcement action is appropriate.

We undertook to review our overall response to migrant victims of domestic abuse in response to the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

It is clear from the review that we need a better evidence base before we can make robust policy decisions about the longer-term support group of victims. That is why the Government has launched the £1.5m Support for Migrant Victims Scheme which will be run by Southall Black Sisters and their delivery partners. This scheme will provide accommodation and support for migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds, as well as providing wrap around provisions, including emotional support, and more practical support such as immigration advice. Additionally, it will provide the data required to inform subsequent policy decisions. Already, we offer support to migrant victims of domestic abuse on certain spousal visas through our Destitute Domestic Violence Concession, which enables individuals to access public funds for three months and can be used to fund safe accommodation. Furthermore, victims can apply for the Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain route (DVILR).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/37>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.jcwi.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=5467543a-6e30-4e28-a39f-db48ffad6d3a>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Neil Coyle (Labour) [263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 3 March 2021 to Question 158072 on Windrush Lessons Learned Review, if she will publish a progress report on that full evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures.

Reply from Priti Patel: We intend to publish an update on the progress of the evaluation at a suitable juncture. As set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan, initial analysis of data and evidence on the compliant environment will be completed by Autumn 2021.

Wendy Williams will return to review progress in September 2021. Ms Williams is currently in discussion with the Home Office to agree the terms of reference and the intended completion date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/263>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/158072>

The Windrush Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [996] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens are able to enter the UK for a job interview without already possessing a UK work permit.

Reply from Kevin Foster: A person may come to the UK under the visitor route for a job interview. However, if successful they must leave the UK and obtain an entry clearance under a route which grants the right to work in the UK before starting the role.

During the current global pandemic any travel to the UK must also be in accordance with the prevailing health regulations at the time of travel.

Irish Citizens do not need to seek entry clearance in order to seek or start work in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/996>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neil Coyle (Labour) [265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that all of the 320,000 pending applications for the EU Settlement Scheme are resolved before the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are committed to ensuring our operational teams have the resources they need to run an efficient and effective system, and we actively monitor workflows to ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet demand. We currently have 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post.

Those who apply before the deadline, but whose application is not decided until after it, will have their rights protected pending the outcome of their application and of any appeal related to it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/265>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Peter Grant (SNP) [336] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 20 April 2021 to Question 181333 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what her Department's policy is in circumstances where an individual who is required to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme is unable to prove that they had reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the general approach under the EU Settlement Scheme of looking to grant status, rather than for reasons to refuse, the Home Office will take a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering, in light of the circumstances of each case, whether there are reasonable grounds for an individual's failure to meet the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Non-exhaustive guidance on what constitutes reasonable grounds for missing the deadline can be found at pages 26 to 44 of the main caseworker guidance for the scheme, which is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance

The guidance will underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme, in light of the circumstances of each case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/336>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-15/181333>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jonathan Edwards (Independent) [197] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on supporting the use of the EU Settled Status app by Polish workers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app allows applicants to prove their identity remotely using their biometric identity document and a smartphone device. Millions of applicants have used the app to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme over the last two years, including over 900,000 Polish nationals.

In early 2021 we were made aware the new Polish passport, issued from late 2020 onwards, contained an advanced security protocol, Password Authenticated Connection Establishment (PACE), which was not supported by our app. We have now made the necessary changes to our app to support this new security protocol and are now in the final stages of testing with a view to releasing the upgrade by the end of May.

The vast majority of Polish passports are not affected by this issue and thousands of Polish nationals are still using the app every week to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Any applicant who is unable to use the app to verify their identity can still apply to the scheme by completing an online application and sending their identity document through the post.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/197>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

EU Settlement Scheme: Ahmadiyya marriage certificates

Gill Furniss (Labour) [386] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether officials in her Department recognise Ahmadiyya marriage certificates which are not registered with the Pakistan Union Council for the purposes of EU Settlement Scheme family permit applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Ahmadiyya marriage certificates which for legitimate reasons are not registered with the Pakistan Union Council, but which have been accepted for official purposes by the Pakistani authorities, will be recognised as evidence of marriage in an EU Settlement Scheme family permit application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/386>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Asylum: Medical Assessments

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether observations by staff conducting medical assessments of a person seeking asylum can be used as evidence to determine the admissibility of that person's asylum claim.

Reply from Chris Philp: Our expectation is that in almost all cases, admissibility considerations will be informed by evidence obtained by officials, usually through physical evidence found or submitted by an applicant, or disclosed to them by an applicant at first contact or in subsequent interviews or meetings. International data-sharing may also provide relevant information. There may conceivably be cases

where third party evidence is relevant and valuable to such considerations - it would depend on the specific nature of the information and the circumstances in which it was obtained, recorded and passed to the Home Office. Any such evidence and its provenance would always be carefully scrutinised by officials. Where the evidence was material to the decision and contentious, an applicant would have the opportunity to address this before any action to remove proceeded.

Information provided in confidence to medical professionals would not ordinarily be used by officials when making inadmissibility decisions. However, applicants may choose to ask for such information to be considered and provide it to caseworkers themselves, or consent in writing to disclosure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/283>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum Determinations

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will cease issuing Notices of Intent to asylum-seekers and revoke those already issued in response to authorities in (a) France and (b) other EU states declining to agree a bilateral agreement with the UK on the return of people seeking asylum.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of delaying asylum determinations for people issued with a Notice of Intent on the number of outstanding asylum cases.

Reply from Chris Philp: We will continue to issue Notices of Intent in line with the Immigration Rules and our published policy. It is right that we consider inadmissibility action and explore all reasonable removal options where there is evidence that someone applying for asylum in the UK was in a safe third country and already has been: granted asylum; had a claim for asylum rejected as unfounded; or had reasonable opportunity to claim asylum there but failed to do so. The published policy is clear that this consideration is not open-ended: in broad terms, a case must be admitted for substantive consideration in the UK asylum system if it is concluded that there are no reasonable prospects of an EU state, including France, or any other safe country, agreeing to the person's return, or if no such agreement has been secured within a maximum of 6 months. (This 6-month timescale does not apply to the period after a country agrees to an individual's return, during which time practical arrangements for the removal will be confirmed and, if necessary, enforcement action taken.)

This system will not introduce significant delays either for individuals entering the asylum system, or the asylum system as a whole.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/279>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/280>

Asylum: Finance

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with voluntary sector organisations on the ASPEN card transition for asylum support payments.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Since January the project team has collaborated with voluntary sector partners through existing and well-established channels such as Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) and the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF). The team have built close links with the SMP and attends quarterly forums with NASF to provide updates on project progress, taking and answering questions.

Early this month, an ASPEN transition update, Q&A session and workshop was

held with NASF attendees.

As well as verbal engagement with the voluntary sector, the ASPEN project team has been committed to keeping third sector partners informed of progress via email. Regular written updates, information packs and all service user communication outputs have been shared with voluntary partners.

The project team has an open communication channel with all stakeholders via a specific project team e-mail inbox. Voluntary sector partners have been encouraged to submit any queries or questions relating to the ASPEN transition to the project inbox, which a project team member will monitor every day and provide responses to.

c43,000 new payment cards have been dispatched to date. Comprehensive, translated advice has accompanied the cards including guidance in relation to the transition over the weekend of 21st May- 23rd May.

Longstanding arrangements for the provision of Emergency Cash Payments (ECPs) will not be affected by the period of transition and will remain available throughout. We have also planned to manage any increased need for ECPs should this be required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/428>

Asylum: Finance

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the ability of people in receipt of asylum support to access funds during the three days within the ASPEN card transition.

Reply from Kevin Foster: A necessary period of disruption to the outgoing provider's service from 5pm on Friday 21st May 2021 is required to enable the process of transferring card balances to the new provider ready for use on Monday 24th May 2021 at 9am. Throughout this period of service disruption over this weekend, service users will be unable to use their ASPEN card.

c43,000 new payment cards have been dispatched to date. Comprehensive, translated advice has accompanied the cards including guidance in relation to the weekend of 21st May. To prepare for this period of service disruption, we have advised service users to withdraw funds or make purchases needed for the weekend prior to its commencement.

We have been communicating with service users directly, indirectly via our strategic delivery partners and numerous stakeholder representatives to alert them of the forthcoming period of disruption. We are also working with the voluntary sector to minimise disruption to the people we support during the period of service disruption. Longstanding arrangements for the provision of Emergency Cash Payments (ECPs) will not be affected by the period of transition and will remain available throughout. We have also planned to manage any increased need for ECPs should this be required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/232>

Asylum: Finance

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of matching the £20 universal credit uplift for people seeking the asylum support allowance.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with furnished accommodation with utilities provided free of charge and a weekly cash allowance. The level of the allowance is reviewed each year to ensure it remains sufficient to meet their essential living needs (the legal test). Currently, the standard allowance is £39.63 per week for the asylum seeker and each of any dependants in their household. The allowance is reduced if the individual is

accommodated in a full-board facility where food and other essential items are provided free.

There are no plans to provide an additional £20 or to link the level of the allowance with the level of Universal Credit. Those receiving Universal Credit generally incur expenses asylum seekers are not required to meet, including paying for utilities and travel and other expenses incurred in looking for work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/883>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Mike Kane (Labour) [747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the need for contingency asylum accommodation contracts to include training for frontline staff to understand the vulnerabilities of people seeking asylum.

Mike Kane (Labour) [748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the need for staff working in contingency asylum accommodation to have relevant experience for that role.

Reply from Kevin Foster: To ensure staff working in all asylum accommodation have the skills and experience for the role the providers have a training programme as required by the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC). Additionally, employees are subject to pre employment checks.

The contracts are published and the requirements of the contract are set out in the Statement of Requirements, this includes provisions around training and the training programme for those with face-to-face contact with our customers.

The Provider must fully equip and train staff (including volunteers) to ensure they are able to fulfil their roles and ensure appropriate and sufficient security provisions are made for all staff undertaking face-to-face activities. Those with face to face contact must cover the following:

- Ethnic diversity and cultural awareness
- Suicide and self-harm awareness and prevention
- Basic First Aid
- Gender based violence
- Fire Safety
- Health and Safety
- Vicarious Trauma
- Unconscious Bias
- Counter Terrorism
- Modern Slavery

As a minimum, provider staff should receive refresher training on the requirements listed above annually (i.e. refresher training completed every twelve (12) months), or more regularly if required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/747>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/748>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre

Kate Osborne (Labour) [1207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultations have been carried out with the local community on her Department's proposal to re-open the former Medomsley Detention Centre site as Hassockfield immigration removal centre.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [1208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what consultations have been undertaken with men abused at Medomsley Detention Centre on her Department's proposal to re-open the site as Hassockfield immigration removal centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has acquired the former Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham and will open it as an immigration removal centre for women by the autumn.

Discussions with Durham County Council have taken place and will continue throughout the development of plans for the site. Consultations with local councillors, other local stakeholders and interested non-governmental organisations including the Refugee Council, will take place over the coming months.

The former Medomsley Detention Centre was demolished and rebuilt in 1988.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1207>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1208>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [1150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of immigration detention on asylum-seeking women with regard to the proposal to open Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham as an immigration removal centre for women.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has acquired the former Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham and will open it as an immigration removal centre (IRC) for women by the autumn.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is being developed to consider the development and operation of the new Hassockfield IRC in line with Public Sector Equality Duties. To ensure that decisions about the development of the site have due regard to eliminating discrimination and inequality, the EIA for Hassockfield will remain ongoing as plans progress to completion. The Home Office will publish the completed EIA in due course.

The Home Office does not anticipate any changes to the manner in which asylum-seeking women are managed in line with existing published policies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1150>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [447] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to provide accommodation for women released from Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre to continue their asylum claims.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can make an application for support and accommodation whilst their application for asylum is being considered.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/447>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre: Employment

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [861] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much per hour women detained at Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre are planned to be paid for the work they carry out.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether organisations external to her Department will be able to contract the women detained at Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre to carry out work.

Reply from Chris Philp: Hassockfield immigration removal centre (IRC) will be operated in accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, in addition to published Operating Standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders (DSO).

Rule 17 of the Detention Centre Rules permits those in detention to engage voluntarily in paid activities. These activities are provided to meet the recreational and intellectual needs of detained individuals. In accordance with Rule 17, pay rates are determined by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The currently approved rates of pay are £1 per hour and, for specified projects, £1.25 per hour, as set out in the published Detention Services Order 1/2013 'Paid Activities'.

External organisations are not permitted to use the paid activity scheme to contract people in immigration detention to carry out work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/861>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/862>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre: Operating Costs

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost per year of running Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre at maximum capacity.

Reply from Chris Philp: The costs of the contract to run Hassockfield immigration removal centre are currently commercial in confidence. The Home Office will publish a contract award notice in line with the statutory timelines within the Public Contract Regulations 2015, which will detail the full cost of running the centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/863>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [864] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to undertake an equality impact assessment for the Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [866] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria her Department used to select Hassockfield as the site for a new immigration removal centre; and which other sites were considered for that planned centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient resilience, geographical footprint and capacity for the men and women it proves necessary to detain for the purposes of removal, while providing value for money.

As part of its plans to manage the closure and return of the Morton Hall immigration removal centre to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, the Home Office considered a number of sites for a new immigration removal centre (IRC). Specifically, sites such as the former Campsfield IRC were considered and the Home Office also engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Justice on the availability of surplus sites.

Given the timescales and value for money considerations, acquiring the vacant Hassockfield site to open as an IRC for women was considered the most cost-effective option for maintaining immigration detention capacity.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed for opening of Hassockfield IRC in line with Public Sector Equality Duties. To ensure that decisions about the development of the site have due regard to eliminating discrimination and inequality, the EIA for Hassockfield will remain ongoing as plans progress to completion. The Home Office will publish the completed EIA in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/864>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/866>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre: Airports

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [865] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which airports her Department plans to use to deport women who have been detained at Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: Most enforced immigration returns are undertaken using scheduled flights, alongside fare-paying passengers from airports around the UK based on a case by case assessment of the individuals needs and to best meet operational needs and maximise value for money.

This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals and other immigration offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/865>

Detention Centres: Mobile Phones

Hilary Benn (Labour) [995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what powers immigration removal centre staff are able to remove mobile telephones from persons detained for being in the UK without a work visa; and whether she plans to review that policy.

Reply from Chris Philp: The rights of all detained individuals are protected by the Detention Centre Rules 2001 (DCR), published Operating Standards for immigration removal centres (IRCs) and individuals under escort and Detention Services Orders (DSO). This framework includes specific guidance on the Home Office's policy on the possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres, as set out in DSO 05/2018 'Mobile phones, internet enabled devices, and cameras' Detained individuals are able to retain their own mobile telephones throughout their detention, provided their handset has no recording facility and/or access to the internet. Where a detained person's handset does not comply with these restrictions, they are provided with a suitable handset by the IRC supplier so that they may maintain contact with friends, family and other means of support. Individuals are provided with £5 phone credit upon induction to an IRC and they can request additional phone credit to maintain contact with their legal advisors, friends and family up to a maximum of £10 per week.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/995>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Right-to-Work Checks for UK Nationals

Lord Lucas (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to end online right-to-work checks for United Kingdom nationals.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, from 21 June, right-to-work checks will revert from the Covid-19-adjusted measures to face-to-face physical document checks for those who cannot use the Home Office online checking service. We are currently evaluating the potential for introducing specialist technology, including identity document validation technology, into the right-to-work checking service. This would provide a permanent digital option for those unable to use the online checking service.

Lord Lucas: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for what has the feeling of being, perhaps, an encouraging Answer. The online verification of right to work during Covid has been a

huge success for the Home Office. The system works really well; no one I have spoken to is aware of any serious issues. It avoids frauds; it is much more efficient and effective for companies; and it really promotes remote working, helping people in unemployment blackspots get jobs many miles away. What is the reason for junking it? Who benefits? I really do not understand.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... employers have been very positive about the temporary measures we have put in place. It is not about “junking it”; it is about the fact that it has been a temporary measure. Obviously, legislation has not been changed in this regard, and we made it clear that we would revert to the full checking regime in line with the lifting of social distancing measures. But I hope that my noble friend is encouraged by the moves we intend to make going forward.

Lord Rosser (Labour): If the temporary measure has been successful and there is no need for return to physical right-to-work checks, why not continue with the temporary measure? We do not really seem to have had an answer to that question.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The answer is actually quite clear: we need to check the security of what might go forward. We are undertaking a review of the value of using specialist technology, including identity document validation, in supporting the system of digital right-to-work checks to include UK and Irish citizens, as they are not in scope of the Home Office online checking services.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, not only are the Government insisting on in-person physical right-to-work checks but some parents say they are being asked by schools to produce passports to prove their child’s right to education as a result of the UK’s departure from the European Union. Can the Minister confirm whether the Home Office is requiring schools to do this and, if so, on what legal basis? If it is not, will the Minister take urgent steps to stop this practice?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Well, I am very grateful to the noble Lord for a heads-up this morning, and it is important to say to him that Brexit has not changed the rights of foreign nationals to access schools. State schools do not have a role in policing the immigration system. Independent schools, with sponsor licences, do have an explicit duty to have documents proving the right to stay in the UK. I do not know the details of the noble Lord’s case, but I would be most grateful to have some further detail, and perhaps we can discuss it further.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes (Conservative): My Lords, following the move to more distanced right-to-work checks during the coronavirus pandemic via video link, in operation to 21 June 2021, can the Minister comment on what measures were taken to check against fraud and abuse of this process? What were the findings?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Well, my noble friend asks the absolutely crucial question. We need security measures in place to ensure that the system is robust. What we have had in place as a temporary measure will, I am sure, be evaluated in due course. But she goes right to the heart of what we need when we progress towards more regular online checking.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it has been reported that EU nationals arriving here who were believed to be seeking work were immediately detained in places such as Yarl’s Wood and deported. Apparently, this has stopped, but what sort of example does the Minister think it sets for the treatment of British citizens in the EU? Secondly, EU nationals who have been British citizens for decades are getting letters telling them they risk losing rights to work, healthcare and benefits unless they apply for settled status in the next six weeks. But they do not need this. Why are the Home Office records so poor?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, EU citizens who have applied to the EU settlement scheme should not be detained in Yarl’s Wood unless there is some exception such as, for example, criminality. In terms of people getting letters, I am sure the reminders are helpful; they are not intended to be hostile in nature.

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [7] Regularisation of undocumented migrants – That this House recognises that there are many barriers that prevent people from accessing and maintaining stable immigration status even when they were either born in the UK or have lived in the UK for many years; further recognises that the majority of undocumented migrants have lost their status through no fault of their own, including through an inability to pay application fees, lack of access to legal advice, mistakes on the part of decision-makers and complexity of immigration rules; understands that the harm done to individuals through hostile immigration policies extends to family members and the communities that they are part of; notes that the UK has one of the most complex and expensive routes to regularisation in Europe; further notes that all current routes to regularisation and settlement are far too long, complicated and inflexible, leaving people with no options but to live undocumented; understands that migrants who do not have access to the public safety net or the right to work are vulnerable to exploitation and; and calls on the Government to support recommendations made by Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants in its report, *We Are Here: routes to regularisation for the UK's undocumented population*, published in April 2021 by introducing new routes to regularisation and removing barriers which cause migrants to become undocumented.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58432>

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [48] Lift the Ban campaign – That this House recognises the injustice of preventing people seeking asylum from working; notes that the £5.66 asylum seekers receive a day is far below what is required to live on; further notes that asylum seekers can wait months for a decision on their asylum claim; supports the Lift the Ban campaign to allow asylum seekers to work whilst their claims are being processed; commends the work of Refugee Action and the non-profit organisations, think tanks, trades unions, businesses, local authorities and faith groups in their struggle to have the rule overturned that prevents people seeking asylum from working; applauds Freedom from Torture, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, as well as the Trades Union Congress, UNISON, NEU and NASUWT in their support for that campaign; believes that overturning that ban would improve the mental health of people in the asylum system and help to challenge forced labour, exploitation and modern slavery; acknowledges and further recognises that the journeys to safety in the UK can take months and prohibit those people rebuilding their lives; pays tribute to the work of the Lift the Ban Coalition including its research revealing that if people seeking asylum had the right to work six months after making their initial asylum claim it would lead to fewer support payments and increased income tax and National Insurance receipts of up to £100m for the public purse; and calls on the Government to lift that ban and bring forward legislative proposals to allow asylum seekers to work.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58477>

Neale Hanvey (Alba) [10] Assessment of the risks of human trafficking for forced labour on the UK Seasonal Workers Pilot – That this House notes the content of the report, *Assessment of the risks of human trafficking for forced labour on the UK Seasonal Workers Pilot* by Focus on Labour Exploitation and Fife Migrants Forum; notes that temporary and tied migration programmes such as the SWP have a range of risks associated with their short-term nature and the limited rights afforded to workers participating in them; recognises that the report has highlighted serious human rights

concerns and makes recommendations to address them; and asks that the UK Government considers the findings of the report and its recommendations to mitigate the risk of human trafficking for forced labour, in particular through unfree recruitment, work and life under duress and impossibility of leaving an employer.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58426>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.labourexploitation.org/sites/default/files/publications/FLEX_human_trafficking_for_forced_labour_VFINAL.pdf

Press Release

Over £26 million compensation offered to the Windrush generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-26-million-compensation-offered-to-the-windrush-generation>

New Publications

Updated guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

Immigration and nationality refunds policy

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/986386/Refunds-policy-v5.0-ext.pdf

News

Britain's immigration plans will 'damage lives' and undermine international cooperation, warns UN

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-plans-unhcr-home-office-priti-patel-uk-b1843902.html>

'Grave danger' trafficking victims will be 'ignored' under UK immigration plans, warns modern slavery tsar

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-trafficking-modern-slavery-b1846089.html>

Home Office launches EU settlement scheme campaign as deadline approaches

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19301763.home-office-launches-eu-settlement-scheme-campaign-deadline-approaches/>

Five million EU citizens apply to settle in UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/13/five-million-eu-citizens-apply-uk-settled-status-nearly-double/>

EU citizens applying for settled status face legal limbo due to backlog

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/10/eu-citizens-applying-for-settled-status-face-legal-limbo-due-to-backlog>

Detention of EU nationals in UK 'source of concern', says EU Commission

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-commission-detention-home-office-uk-b1845053.html>

EU citizens arriving in UK being locked up and expelled

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/13/eu-citizens-arriving-in-uk-being-locked-up-and-expelled>

Stop locking up EU citizens in removal centres, UK ministers tell border force

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/14/stop-locking-up-eu-citizens-in-removal-centres-uk-ministers-tell-border-officials>

Hostile UK border regime traumatises visitors from EU

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/14/hostile-uk-border-regime-traumatizes-visitors-from-eu>

One in 10 EU nationals in UK may leave after June – survey

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/13/one-in-10-eu-nationals-in-uk-may-leave-after-june-survey>

173 migrants cross Channel in three days

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/173-migrants-cross-channel-in-three-days-8mcc37rkv>

Priti Patel accused of breaking Geneva Convention with plans to deny asylum rights to refugees crossing Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-asylum-rights-geneva-b1821562.html>

Church proposes alternative to UK Government asylum reform plans

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/church-proposes-alternative-to-uk-government-asylum-reform-plans>

Immigrants to be stripped of right to challenge deportation using judicial review

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugees-deportation-judicial-review-remove-b1845690.html>

Asylum seekers barred from taking appeals to judicial review

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-barred-from-taking-appeals-to-judicial-review-8lzq86s02>

Home Office immigration system 'barbaric', says campaigning lawyer after Glasgow raid

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-immigration-system-barbaric-says-campaigning-lawyer-after-glasgow-raid-3238696>

Charity considers legal action against Home Office over Glasgow immigration raid

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19305712.charity-considers-legal-action-home-office-glasgow-immigration-raid/>

Police release men from immigration van blocking Glasgow street

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57100259>

Kenmure Street: Glasgow locals rejoice as men detained by immigration enforcement released

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19301608.kenmure-street-glasgow-locals-rejoice-men-detained-immigration-enforcement-released/>

Kenmure Street: Police order release of men after deportation raid standoff in Glasgow street where residents blocked UK Border Agency

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/kenmure-street-police-order-release-of-men-after-deportation-raid-standoff-in-glasgow-street-where-residents-blocked-uk-border-agency-3235254>

Police order release of men detained in immigration raid after Glasgow standoff

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/13/police-order-release-men-detained-immigration-raid-glasgow-standoff/>

Glasgow protesters rejoice as men freed after immigration van standoff

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/13/glasgow-residents-surround-and-block-immigration-van-from-leaving-street>

Glasgow stand-off: Residents cheer as immigration officials release two men after crowd blocks van

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/glasgow-kenmure-immigration-evictions-release-b1847157.html>

Kenmure Street protest halts Home Office immigration raid in Glasgow

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kenmure-street-protest-halts-home-office-immigration-raid-in-glasgow-zpnjkkdk>

Kenmure street: Nicola Sturgeon condemns Glasgow immigration removals

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19300406.kenmure-street-nicola-sturgeon-condemns-glasgow-immigration-removals/>

Kenmure Street: Nicola Sturgeon says Home Office must ask itself 'hard questions'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19302321.kenmure-street-nicola-sturgeon-says-home-office-must-ask-hard-questions/>

Kenmure Street: Nicola Sturgeon calls on Home Office to reflect after Glasgow detentions spark protests

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/kenmure-street-nicola-sturgeon-calls-on-home-office-to-reflect-after-glasgow-detentions-spark-protests-3236306>

Kenmure Street protest: Glasgow immigration detentions protester warns Home Office 'shouldn't act like mafia'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/kenmure-street-protest-glasgow-immigration-detentions-protester-warns-home-office-shouldnt-act-like-mafia-3237227>

Kenmure Street: Protest against Glasgow deportation attempt was impressive but SNP support raises serious concerns about the rule of law

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/kenmure-street-protest-against-glasgow-deportation-attempt-was-impressive-but-snp-support-raises-serious-concerns-about-the-rule-of-law-john-mclellan-3237518>

Kenmure Street 24 hours on, locals reflect on protest and their role in blocking deportation
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/watch-kenmure-street-24-hours-on-locals-reflect-on-protest-and-their-role-in-blocking-deportation-3237929>

‘A special day’: how a Glasgow community halted immigration raid
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/14/a-special-day-how-glasgow-community-halted-immigration-raid>

Scotland needs flexibility on immigration policy
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotland-needs-flexibility-on-immigration-policy-euan-mccolm-3238384>

A hostile environment for migrants is no hill to die on
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-hostile-environment-for-migrants-is-no-hill-to-die-on-8bp58n957>

Swirl of emotion behind rout of Kenmure Street
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/swirl-of-emotion-behind-rout-of-kenmure-street-vqd0hrc9f>

Glasgow refugee protest: Solidarity in the face of state hostility
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glasgow-refugee-protest-solidarity-in-the-face-of-state-hostility-qkhdln3q>

Man held in Glasgow immigration raid thanks locals for ‘helping one of their own’
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/man-held-in-glasgow-immigration-raid-thanks-locals-for-helping-one-of-their-own-xfpccmld>

TOP

Equality

Press Release

TUC: BME unemployment is rising 3 times as fast as white unemployment
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-bme-unemployment-rising-3-times-fast-white-unemployment>

New Publication

Civil Service diversity by organisation and grade: 2020
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984476/Civil-Service-diversity-by-organisation-and-grade-2020.xlsx

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Police Scotland and Rangers Football Club (Engagement)
James Dornan (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with

Police Scotland and Rangers Football Club regarding the reported Covid-19 regulations breaches and incidents of vandalism, violence and anti-Catholic bigotry in Glasgow city centre and at Ibrox Stadium on 15 May.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): ... I was in regular contact with Police Scotland over the weekend as the appalling events unfolded in Glasgow. First and foremost, I record my thanks to the officers on the ground, some of whom suffered injuries as they went about their job. Such assaults on our officers are simply unacceptable. On many levels, I am disappointed about the selfishness of the Covid breaches, but I am perhaps more disappointed about the violence and vandalism that we saw in George Square and with the anti-Catholic bigotry that was on display.

Since the weekend, my officials and I have continued to liaise with Police Scotland and to engage directly with Rangers Football Club to discuss the fallout and consider next steps. Police Scotland has set up a dedicated team and an online portal in order to investigate the George Square incidents. I envisage that arrests will follow in the days and weeks ahead. Rangers FC is working closely with Police Scotland to identify supporters who were involved in criminal activity, and I urge Rangers to take strong action against any fan who is found to have broken the law.

James Dornan: Saturday's scenes were an utter disgrace. Like many people, I am sick and tired of Rangers fans thinking that they are above the law. Vandalism, violence among themselves and towards the police, anti-Catholic bigotry and anti-Irish racism show us that we have a major problem in Scotland, which we must tackle.

The blame for the abhorrent scenes lies squarely with the Rangers fans who were in attendance, but the club itself has a major role to play in respect of the messages that it sends and the behaviour of club members.

How could Saturday's chaos affect Glasgow's Covid rate, which is already concerning, and what action is the Government taking—and does it intend to take—to eradicate anti-Catholic bigotry and anti-Irish racism in Scotland?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: James Dornan probably expresses the anger that many citizens of Glasgow and people across the country feel. In fairness to Rangers Football Club, it has engaged for a number of weeks with Police Scotland, the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council, and it has released a statement asking its fans and pleading with them to respect the Covid guidelines. I would have liked that messaging to have been stronger and more explicit, but such messaging did come forth.

James Dornan has hit on an important point. As much as people may ask—legitimately, of course—whether Government, the police and the club could have done more, let us not forget that responsibility for the dreadful scenes that we saw lies on the shoulders of the individuals who took part in the disorder. There must be personal responsibility, because those people do not need the Government, the police or a football club to tell them that we are in the midst of a global pandemic. Personal responsibility must be taken. As I said, Police Scotland will follow that up. On the health impact, I heard Professor Jason Leitch this morning on "Good Morning Scotland" say that, from a clinical perspective, we might, while expressing disappointment about them, never know whether mass gatherings by Rangers fans in Glasgow were superspreader events. We will need to see how the data looks in the coming weeks.

On James Dornan's points about anti-Catholic and anti-Irish bigotry, I say that it is disgusting and disgraceful and I have zero tolerance for it. I do not for a second doubt that the matter will be part of the investigations that Police Scotland has committed to in following it up. Every one of us has a responsibility to call it out and to call it what it is.

James Dornan: I welcome Police Scotland's having established a dedicated inquiry team

to investigate the carnage at George Square, but we also need to take steps to prevent such abhorrent scenes from happening in the first place. As the cabinet secretary is well aware, I have for years been pushing for strict liability, whereby clubs would be held responsible for the actions of their fans. Although I accept that personal responsibility is at the core of the issue, over the years I have been met with denial from football authorities and clubs and have had death threats from Rangers fans.

Will the cabinet secretary ask Rangers Football Club to reflect on what more it could have done, and what it can do in the future, to dampen the climate of hate and intimidation? Will he consider legislating to introduce strict liability or—which would be even better—will he work with the Scottish Football Association and Scottish Professional Football League with a view to implementing strict liability to ensure that scenes such as those on Saturday are never again seen from so-called football fans on the streets of Glasgow?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I am happy to take that conversation forward. Indeed, after tomorrow, whoever is in post as Cabinet Secretary for Justice, working alongside the minister who will have responsibility for sport, will be happy to do so. It is important that we engage with clubs and bring them with us on the journey, rather than try to impose measures on them. However, ultimately that is what we might have to do. If the clubs are unwilling to acknowledge, accept or confront the fact that there is a problem among some fans, we might have to work together as a Parliament to find an appropriate solution. ...

I urge parliamentarians to work collaboratively. Many members across the chamber are fans of various football clubs and we have a responsibility to work together to try to find a lasting solution to the issue. I am happy in my current role—I am sure that whoever is the next Cabinet Secretary for Justice will be happy, too—to work with James Dornan, because he has championed the issue. Strict liability is one of the options that should remain firmly on the table.

Pauline McNeill (Labour): Glasgow witnessed disorder and violence by some Rangers supporters in George Square only a few months previously, so why did we not learn from that? On the obscene anti-Catholic bigotry and anti-Irish racism—I am pleased that the First Minister and the justice secretary have rightly called those out—does the cabinet secretary acknowledge that the Catholic community is sick and tired of it and that we need everyone to work together, including the football organisations, which need to take a much tougher stance than they have done, with zero tolerance of bigotry wherever it is found in football and beyond?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I absolutely agree with how Pauline McNeill has articulated the problem. On her first question about what we have learned from the disorder in March, I say to her—this extends to all members—that I know from having spoken to Police Scotland that it is willing to speak to any member of the Scottish Parliament to explain the operational decisions that were taken.

There is no easy answer. If people think that we can just throw 10,000 people in the back of police vans or custody suites overnight—I am not saying that Pauline McNeill is suggesting that—they should know that it cannot be done. How to ensure that such disorder did not take place in the very heart of our communities was one of the very difficult decisions that Police Scotland had to try to take. It is legitimate for Pauline McNeill and other members to ask those operational questions. I have spoken to Police Scotland, and it has said to me that it is absolutely willing to answer them.

On the substance of Pauline McNeill's question about anti-Catholic and anti-Irish hatred, I am disgusted by that hatred. She is absolutely correct to say that the Irish community and members of the Catholic community have faced that hatred for far too long. Perhaps we, collectively as a Parliament, have not done enough to call it out. I accept that from the Government's perspective, too.

I woke up this morning to two rabid anti-Catholic messages, which I have already

reported to the police. I am neither Catholic nor Irish, but the hatred was directed towards me, so I intend to call it out.

I suspect that we will have support and collaboration on the issue. I am happy to work with any members on calling out hatred and bigotry of any kind.

Patrick Harvie (Green): To reinforce James Dornan's point, I say that many thousands of fans are clearly unwilling to listen, or are incapable of listening, to encouragement and appeals for civilised behaviour. Is it not abundantly clear that we will see significant change only when every fan of every club knows that any hint of vandalism, violence, antisocial behaviour or bigotry will bring not only criminal sanctions for them as individuals but immediate and severe sanctions for the club that they follow, whether through the law or through the football authorities?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Patrick Harvie makes a strong point, as James Dornan did. Strict liability should be on the table. Other suggestions that I have heard that should be on the table include an independent regulator, such as has been discussed for the English game. If football is unable to regulate itself, perhaps somebody who is independent should be considered.

The clubs could also take stronger action. In my opening answer, I said that Rangers Football Club has committed to working with Police Scotland. I hope that any supporter or fan, or anybody who is involved with Rangers Football Club who has been found guilty of being involved in anti-Catholic bigotry, vandalism or disorder will get a lifetime ban from the club. That is probably the punishment that fans would fear the most.

Patrick Harvie's points are well made. As I have said, the Government will work on a cross-party basis, I hope, to come to a solution. I hope that we can bring the clubs with us on that journey.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): The scenes that we saw at the weekend were disgraceful, and the attacks on our excellent police officers were particularly reprehensible. However, crucially, the coronavirus and public health advice do not distinguish between reasons for gatherings; in the advice it is noted only that the risk of transmission is increased where they occur. Does the cabinet secretary agree that, in order to avoid public confusion, it is important to ensure consistency in public health messaging by advising against all gatherings?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Although that is important—I get the point that Liam Kerr is trying to make—when I stood here on Friday to take an urgent question, Alex Cole-Hamilton asked me a supplementary question in response to which I made it abundantly clear that gatherings of any kind should not happen. The Government has said it from the daily briefings podium, and we say it in the chamber. The First Minister and I have said that, if it were not for the Covid regulations, we would have been at the Kenmure Street gathering, for example. However, we did not go, because we would not encourage gatherings of any sort because of the public health emergency.

I say genuinely that we did not see thuggish and loutish behaviour in Kenmure Street. We did not see disorder, protesters punching police officers or protesters urinating in public, and we did not hear anti-Catholic bigotry—nor, indeed, did we hear it at other gatherings.

When it comes to the public health emergency, Liam Kerr is absolutely right that the advice does not distinguish between gatherings. However, let us not think that there is absolute equivalence between the scenes of disorder that we saw at the weekend and what we saw in Pollokshields and some other gatherings over the weekend.

I will continue to do what is important and necessary in the public health interest, and I hope that we can get the support of other parties in that endeavour.

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): As the MSP whose constituency covers George Square, I have been contacted by numerous city centre residents who, like me, are appalled and

disgusted by the behaviour of what was, to be frank, a mob in the guise of football fans. Does the minister agree that my constituents should not have to listen to such bigotry and racism or to witness such disgusting violence and vandalism in their streets? What steps is he taking to prevent a repeat of those shameful events?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... I will ensure that Police Scotland speaks to and debriefs Kaukab Stewart as the constituency MSP—I know that she has made that request. I support the actions that Police Scotland took over the weekend, but it is important that members can ask Police Scotland questions about operational matters on behalf of their constituents.

We will do our best to stop similar gatherings and disorder from taking place. Police Scotland will always do that in the best interests of public order and safety.

I go back to the point that I made to James Dornan at the beginning of this exchange: people must accept personal responsibility. No one needs the Government, the police or football clubs to tell them that assaulting police officers is wrong, that running amok, creating disorder and vandalising our city centres are wrong, that urinating in public is wrong, or that engaging in anti-Catholic bigotry is wrong. People should know that, yet grown men and women took part in the scenes that we saw over the weekend.

Kaukab Stewart has my absolute commitment that we will work closely with any stakeholder, club, city council and the police to ensure that we can prevent similar scenes. However, we must also be absolutely emphatic in saying that people hold personal responsibility for their actions. That is why Police Scotland will follow up the matter in the coming weeks.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13227&i=119824#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Mercedes Villalba (Labour) [S6M-00046] Calling Out Anti-Catholic Bigotry – That the Parliament recognises anti-Catholic bigotry as a real and abhorrent problem in society; extends solidarity to people targeted by it; affirms that there is no place for hatred or violence of any kind; acknowledges the progress made in tackling sectarianism through education, and calls on the Scottish Government to maintain and expand funding in this area to do more to confront and challenge all forms of prejudice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00046>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Antisemitic Attacks

col 411 **Robert Halfon (Conservative):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on recent antisemitic attacks across the UK.

Reply from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Robert Jenrick): No one could fail to be appalled by the disgraceful scenes of antisemitic abuse directed at members of the Jewish community in the past week. In Chigwell, Rabbi Rafi Goodwin was hospitalised after being attacked outside his synagogue. In London, activists drove through Golders Green and Finchley, both areas with large Jewish populations, apparently shouting antisemitic abuse through a megaphone. These are intimidatory, racist and extremely serious crimes. The police have since made four arrests for racially aggravated public order offences ...

During Shavuot, as always, we stand with our Jewish friends and neighbours, who have sadly been subjected to a deeply disturbing upsurge in antisemitism in recent years, particularly on social media. Like all forms of racism, antisemitism has no place in our society. A lot of young British Jews are discovering for the first time that their friends do not understand antisemitism, cannot recognise it and do not care that they are spreading it. British Jews are not responsible for the actions of a Government thousands of miles away, but are made to feel as if they are. They see their friends post social media content that glorifies Hamas—an illegal terrorist organisation, whose charter calls for every Jew in the world to be killed. Today, the world celebrates International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. Under Hamas, people are murdered for being gay.

Every time the virus of antisemitism re-enters our society, it masks itself as social justice, selling itself as speaking truth to power. This Government are taking robust action to root it out. We are leading the way as the first Government to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism and calling on others to do the same. As a result, nearly three quarters of local councils have adopted it. I have written to councils and universities that are still dragging their feet. They will shortly be named and shamed if they fail to act. All Members of Parliament, bar one, have signed up to it.

col 412 We are also doing our utmost to keep the Jewish community safe through the £65 million protective security grant to protect Jewish schools, synagogues and community buildings. We are working closely with the Community Security Trust to ensure victims can come forward and report attacks to the police.

We recognise that education is one of the most powerful tools we have for tackling antisemitism. We are proud to back the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Anne Frank Trust, among others, to ensure that we challenge prejudice from an early age. With the last holocaust survivors leaving us, we are also ensuring that future generations never forget where hatred can lead through—I hope—a new world-class holocaust memorial and learning centre next to the Palace of Westminster. It is currently awaiting the outcome of a planning inquiry. Some of the opposition to it has only served to make the case for why it is needed.

Today, the Government and, I hope, the whole House send a clear message of support and reassurance to our Jewish friends and neighbours. We seek a society where the UK's largest established religions can live safely and freely, and can prosper, as an essential part of a nation that is confident in its diversity but ultimately strong in its unity. ...

Robert Halfon: In a 2018 House of Commons debate on antisemitism, I said the air had grown tighter for Jews: “you feel very hot, you undo a button on your shirt and your mouth goes dry.”—[[Official Report, 17 April 2018; Vol. 639, c. 262.](#)]

Sadly, after yesterday's horrific incidents, highlighted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State—particularly the rabbi being beaten up in Chigwell in Essex—I fear that the air has become even tighter. I thank my right hon. Friend the Member for Epping Forest (Dame Eleanor Laing) for her strong support against antisemitism.

Since 2018, the Community Security Trust has recorded the highest ever number of antisemitic incidents—more than 1,800 in 2019. In Harlow just a few days ago, swastikas were graffitied on walls in a public walkway. Thankfully, they have now been removed. Why, in the 21st century, must Jewish schools and synagogues have guards outside? The growth of antisemitism has happened for a number of reasons. There are too many of what Vladimir Lenin called “useful idiots”, whether they are some Labour party activists, condemned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and those who use the conflict in Israel as an excuse; the BBC's Jeremy Bowen telling Jews to read negative articles about Jews; or the NUS giving moral equivalence to antisemitism and what it calls the liberation of Palestine. I remind the House that the so-called liberation is being

conducted by Iranian-funded extreme Islamist terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

col 413 What protections and support are being given specifically to Jews and to the Community Security Trust? What are the Government doing to educate pupils about antisemitism so that this evil is wiped out? Will there be severe penalties for those found guilty of antisemitic behaviours? As a proud British Jewish MP, I never imagined that I would live at a time when I and the Jewish community would question whether Britain is a safe place for Jews any more.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... We must ensure that this is a country where our Jewish friends and neighbours feel safe, and I am sure that the whole House will send a strong message today of support and reassurance to them.

The Government will continue to support the Community Security Trust—I join my right hon. Friend in praising its work. Partly funded by the Government and partly by philanthropy, it helps to ensure the security of 650 Jewish communal buildings and 1,000 events every year. It has reported to us a steep rise this week in antisemitic incidents—a 320% increase in a week. I am afraid that that is likely to rise further as there is always a delay in reporting. We will continue to support the trust and we will work with the Metropolitan police and police forces in other parts of the country, who are putting out extra patrols in the coming days to provide reassurance to Jewish citizens.

We will also support groups across the country, for example, the Union of Jewish Students, which does so much good work for Jews on campuses across the UK who suffer antisemitic attacks and abuse. We will keep on with that work as well as the educational work to which my right hon. Friend referred. In my opening remarks, I paid tribute to a number of the fantastic organisations, such as the Holocaust Memorial Trust, which deliver that day in, day out, and have continued to do so even during the difficulties that covid-19 posed.

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): ... What we saw and heard in the footage from the streets of London yesterday was vile antisemitism and sickening, threatening misogyny. Those who engage in that appalling, terrible behaviour should feel the full force of the law. Time and again, we have seen these attacks aimed at the Jewish community. The Community Security Trust, which I also commend for its work, recorded 63 antisemitic incidents from 8 to 16 May. We send a clear, unequivocal message that that is not acceptable—not then, not now, not ever. I have been moved by the Jewish community's sharing testimonies at the weekend. I have contacted the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Community Security Trust to make clear the absolute condemnation on these Benches for those terrible acts.

There is too often a completely unacceptable pattern: distressing scenes in the middle east—we on these Benches have called for a ceasefire—can lead to a minority of people attempting to whip up hatred between communities. There is often an upsurge in Islamophobic attacks, too. Those who do that do not in any sense represent those who seek to bring about peace in the middle east.

col 414 I understand that four men have been arrested, but I ask the Secretary of State whether anyone else is being sought. What more can be done, particularly in intelligence gathering, to prevent this kind of incident from happening again? What additional support is being given to places of worship and other key sites at this worrying time? Does the Secretary of State agree that, in response to those who seek to stoke division and hatred, we must stand united and send a message that they will never win?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for his strong words today, which will have been heard by Jewish communities across the country. The whole of the House of Commons is united in this regard. He is also right to say that whatever one's views are on the current conflict in Israel and Gaza, that is no excuse whatsoever for the kind of antisemitic abuse or, indeed, anti-Muslim hatred that we are seeing on our streets right now. Tell MAMA, which

reports the number of anti-Muslim incidents, has also informed us that there has been a rise in incidents directed against the Muslim community in recent days. Both are unacceptable, and both need to be tackled.

The right hon. Gentleman is right to say that the police should be taking a lead, and we expect the police to be urgently investigating the issues that we have seen in recent days. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has spoken with the commissioner of the Metropolitan police, who has given assurances that the police will do everything they can to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Further patrols are now happening in areas with larger Jewish communities in London, for example, and I know that other police forces in other parts of the country, such as Greater Manchester, are taking the same proactive approach. ...

With respect to the incident regarding the rabbi in Chigwell, Essex police have announced that they are investigating the incident as a religiously aggravated assault, and have appealed for witnesses. ...

Andrew Percy (Conservative): ... The fact that people feel emboldened to drive through Jewish neighbourhoods calling for the rape of women, or to march through the streets of London warning Jews that an army is coming against them, does not happen in isolation. It happens because antisemitism on campuses is ignored; because university lecturers who target Jewish students are not dealt with; because far-right holocaust denial content on online platforms is not dealt with; and because some people, some campaigners — including, perhaps, some in this place—place an emphasis on Israel and use emotive language that they do not use in relation to other conflicts, while giving Hamas, the terror tunnels and the murder weapons a free pass. That is why it happens: it does not happen in isolation, and enough is enough.

col 415 I thank the Secretary of State for what he has said today, but I urge him to go even further. It is great that we are putting so much money into holocaust education, but we have to go further in ensuring that every child in this country is taught about antisemitism, as they should be taught about Islamophobia and all racism.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I completely agree with my hon. Friend. It is crucial that we ensure that young people uphold the values of this country and understand antisemitism. That is one of the reasons why we were the first country in the world to sign up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition, which makes it abundantly clear that anti-Zionism is antisemitism. It is one of the reasons why we fund the Holocaust Educational Trust, and why we have now expended its remit from going into schools to going into universities as well. ...

It is also important to underline the point that my hon. Friend made: Hamas is a proscribed terrorist organisation, and those considering its activities or reporting upon them should make very clear the kind of organisation it is and the relationship that the UK has with it, which is that we do not engage with a terrorist organisation.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... There is never any excuse or justification for [antisemitism], and hatred expressed here helps absolutely nobody, anywhere. The events that have already been described were absolutely horrendous—vile, targeted antisemitism and misogyny—and our solidarity goes out to the Jewish communities directly targeted and to everyone across the country who has suffered such hatred. We support all steps to bring the perpetrators to justice and all initiatives to tackle antisemitism. ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I thank the hon. Gentleman for those remarks. Like him, this Government have zero tolerance for all forms of racism, including antisemitism. We must do everything we can to ensure that where individuals do perpetrate these crimes, they are brought to justice. ...

To read this very long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-17/debates/F3016C6F-117C-4328-9793-B88CD763BA41/AntisemiticAttacks>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Anti-Semitic Attacks

The first response given in the Commons by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government was repeated in the Lords (see above).

col 450 Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town (Labour): My Jewish 97 year-old aunt Rose lives in St John's Wood. I never imagined I would see such scenes on her street. As Simon Wiesenthal said, "For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing."

And Pastor Niemöller wrote: "First they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew."

Does the Minister agree that each and every one of us must stand up to, and speak out against, what we saw at the weekend?

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Lord Greenhalgh): I completely agree that we must stand in solidarity with British Jews. The events we saw in the past week were abhorrent and I am pleased the police acted swiftly to arrest four individuals for that offence of driving up and down Finchley Road. Equally, there was the violent attack on Rabbi Rafi Goodwin in Chigwell, and I am pleased to say that the latest news is that the police have arrested two individuals concerning that incident.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it is poignant that today's exchange on anti-Semitism coincides with the important Jewish festival of Shavuot, which has kept some of our colleagues away from this debate. One of the examples that accompanies the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism, is "Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel."

Can the Minister tell the House what steps the Government are taking to ensure that all public and private bodies adopt not only the definition but also the examples? Can the Government stress at every opportunity that the supposedly pro-Palestinian demonstrations of recent days have actually been pro-Hamas, and not in support of the Palestinian people?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, this Government are very proud of the fact that they were the first adopters of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition, and we are working very hard to ensure that that is fully embedded across our universities and local councils ... It is important that we take that forward and we will continue to work very hard to ensure that we tackle anti-Semitism wherever we see it.

col 451 Lord Pickles (Conservative): ... The Jew haters and the women-despising thugs who threatened murder and sexual violence on our streets brought great shame to our nation. At the first chance, they exposed the thin veneer between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. ... Does [the Minister] agree that we cannot allow the men of violence to define the relationship between communities? Will he commit to measures that combine strict policing and a strong social cohesion? ...

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: ... We need to combine that strict policing, where we do more than engage and the police act to ensure that we take the hate off our streets and online wherever it occurs, with an equally strong and robust approach to social cohesion. ...

The Lord Bishop of Manchester: Is the Minister aware that the Union of Jewish Students has raised serious concerns that Jewish students and societies are now being targeted with really quite disgusting anti-Semitic abuse due to the conflict in the Middle East? Will he reassure Jewish students that the Government will clamp down on all forms of campus anti-Semitism and encourage all universities not just to adopt but to implement the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we are aware of this tension. The

Community Security Trust has reported a massive spike in anti-Semitic incidents, but equally, Tell MAMA has seen a similar increase in anti-Muslim incidents of 420% in the past week. ...

Lord Triesman (Labour): Just a couple of days ago and less than half a mile from my home, a motor convoy with loudhailers passed by calling for Jews to be killed and our daughters raped. ... I abhor Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. No decent safe society can live with either. ... What discussions have the Government held with the many law-abiding Muslim groups to encourage public expression of their anger and repudiation of the hatred of Jews? What concrete additional help can be given to the Community Security Trust to enhance community protection?

Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we continue to have our cross-government working groups to tackle both anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim sentiments. ...

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-05-18/debates/CF994799-2656-489F-85C3-2E6F1D6F34C5/Anti-SemiticAttacks>

New Publication

Unsafe Search: Why Google's Safe Search function is not fit for purpose

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/e/2/Unsafe%20Search%20Report.1620727269.pdf>

News

Scottish by-election candidate tells of racist abuse on campaign trail

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-by-election-candidate-tells-of-racist-abuse-on-campaign-trail-3234268>

Huge increase in antisemitic incidents in UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/huge-increase-in-antisemitic-incidents-in-uk-vngvp5gc9>

Anti-Semitic attacks in Britain 'will worsen' until Israel-Gaza conflict subsides

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/17/community-groups-warn-uk-anti-semitic-attacks-could-worsen-israel/>

Anti-Semitism surge deeply disturbing - Robert Jenrick

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57145232>

Four men arrested in anti-Semitism video investigation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57137151>

Four arrests over video 'showing antisemitic abuse shouted from cars in London'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/16/police-investigate-video-antisemitic-abuse-shouted-cars-london>

Police arrest four over 'antisemitic threats' in London as Johnson condemns 'shameful racism'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/antisemitism-london-boris-johnson-racism-b1848430.html>

Anti-Semitism has 'no place in Britain' says PM after convoy of cars chant abuse in London

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/16/anti-semitism-has-no-place-britain-says-pm-convoy-cars-chanted/>

More police to be deployed after antisemitic abuse hurled by protesters over Israeli airstrikes in Gaza

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitic-abuse-hurled-by-protesters-over-israeli-airstrikes-in-gaza-2rv69hsqx>

Chigwell rabbi attack: Two arrests after synagogue assault

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-57141510>

Police wrong to block preacher who once called Jews 'termites', rules High Court

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/10/police-wrong-block-preacher-called-jews-termites-rules-high/>

Film-maker lauds black parents who toppled 'subnormal' schools

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/may/13/steve-mcqueen-lauds-black-parents-who-toppled-subnormal-schools>

Racist graffiti in Cardonald transformed into colourful mural by Glaswegian artist following plea by charity Refuweegee

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/racist-graffiti-in-cardonald-transformed-into-colourful-mural-by-glaswegian-artist-following-plea-by-charity-refuweegee-3238700>

'Racism impacted my childhood, but I'm teaching my kids to be confident in their own skin'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/parenting/racism-impacted-childhood-teaching-kids-confident-skin/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Nomination of First Minister

Nomination of First Minister

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13227&i=119822#ScotParIOR>

Press Releases

John Swinney reappointed as Deputy First Minister

<https://www.gov.scot/news/john-swinney-reappointed-as-deputy-first-minister/>

Alison Johnstone MSP elected as the Scottish Parliament's Sixth Presiding Officer

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117405.aspx>

Annabelle Ewing MSP and Liam McArthur MSP have been elected as Deputy Presiding Officers of the Scottish Parliament

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117413.aspx>

Covid, climate and constitution will be key issues of new Parliament, say Holyrood researchers SPICe

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117398.aspx>

First Minister message for Eid

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-message-for-eid/>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Election 2021

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2021/5/11/591dc3c7-d994-4bbd-8120-767e9e781a67/SB%2021-24.pdf>

State of the parties: Session 6

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/state-of-the-parties-session-6-8-may-2021.pdf>

Current MSPs A-Z

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-msps-az-8-may.pdf>

Current MSPs by party

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-msps-by-party-8-may-2021.pdf>

Current MSPs by constituency and region

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-msps-by-constituency-and-region-8-may.pdf>

Current MSPs by local authority

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-msps-by-local-authority-8-may.pdf>

Current MSPs by NHS Board

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-msps-by-nhs-board-10-may.pdf>

Current female MSPs

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-female-msps-8-may.pdf>

Current male MSPs

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/current-male-msps-8-may-2021.pdf>

New MSPs 2021

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spice/factsheets/msps/new-msps-2021-8-may-2021.pdf>

Key Issues for Session 6: COVID, Climate and Constitution

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2021/5/12/df69604c-1a2f-4a50-94fe-26c48f8623e7/SB%2021-25.pdf>

News

Scottish Greens MSP Alison Johnstone to be new presiding officer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57087382>

Nicola Sturgeon re-elected as Scotland's first minister

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57146752>

John Swinney to be minister for Covid recovery

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57161751>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Ministerial Statements

The Government's Legislative Programme 2021

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-12/debates/21051242000024/TheGovernmentSLegislativeProgramme2021>

The Government's Legislative Programme (Scotland) 2021-22

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-12/debates/21051242000026/TheGovernment%E2%80%99SLegislativeProgramme\(Scotland\)2021-22](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-12/debates/21051242000026/TheGovernment%E2%80%99SLegislativeProgramme(Scotland)2021-22)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Organs: Donors

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [738] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department (a) has taken and (b) plans to take to encourage people to better understand their organ donation choices in response to the implementation of the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [739] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department (a) has taken and (b) plans to take to encourage people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to become organ donors in response to the implementation of the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019.

Reply from Helen Whately: The Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019 introduced a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation in England, known as 'opt-out' or 'deemed consent, from 20 May 2020.

NHS Blood and Transplant launched a public awareness campaign in April 2019 to inform the public about the law change and the choices available to them. A second public awareness campaign in autumn 2020, reached 18 million people. In February 2021, NHS Blood and Transplant launched its Leave Them Certain campaign, to encourage people to talk to their family about organ donation. The campaign includes specific community media for black and South Asian audiences. In

addition, NHS Blood and Transplant committed £600,000 in 2020-2021 to run the Community Investment Scheme for a third year, which has funded 35 projects to raise awareness of blood and organ donation in black and Asian communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/738>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/739>

Offences against Children: Ethnic Groups

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of collecting ethnicity as part of child sexual abuse data.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Child sexual abuse is an abhorrent crime and we will leave no stone unturned to prevent and pursue offenders, protect children and young people, and support victims and survivors from all backgrounds.

All police forces routinely collect data on recorded child sexual abuse offences, including offences related to indecent images of children. These figures are published quarterly by the Office for National statistics, and are broken down by offence types and police force areas. In the most recent data, published 13 May 2021, there were nearly 90,000 CSA offences recorded, an increase of nearly 300% since 2013. [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

The Government is clear that understanding possible drivers of crime is key to developing ways to prevent offending and better support victims. That is why the Home Secretary introduced a new requirement for police forces to collect ethnicity data for those arrested and held in custody as a result of their suspected involvement in group-based child sexual exploitation in March 2021. Complying with the requirement will be voluntary for one year to allow forces to update their systems, after which it will become mandatory. This follows the Government's commitment in the Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy (January 2021) to improve the quality of data collected on the characteristics of offenders.

Police forces have a duty to collect this data through the Annual Data Requirement (ADR) as set out in the Police Act 1996. The ADR is reviewed on an annual basis, and the Home Office will continue to consider data requirements in relation to child sexual abuse, ensuring that all proposals for new data collections are consulted on with the police to ensure that such requests are proportionate, and do not place unnecessary burdens on police forces.

Additionally the Government is constantly striving to better understand the nature of child sexual abuse through the work of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, which it established in 2017, and the insight of other experts including the ONS and the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse, who have produced research on ethnic minority victims of CSEA.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/670>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/973236/Tackling_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Strategy_2021.pdf

Press Releases

Prime Minister's call with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-first-minister-nicola-sturgeon-9-may-2021>

Queen's Speech 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2021>

New Publication

Asian Youth Movements in the UK: history and legacy

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/asian-youth-movements-in-the-uk-history-and-legacy/>

News

Halal slaughter: we will cut number of no-stun kills, promises minister

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/halal-no-stun-slaughter-animal-welfare-b1846908.html>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

NHS Inform (Scotland)

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

NHS (England and Wales)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Next steps out of lockdown

<https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-out-of-lockdown/>

Three million people receive first vaccination

<https://www.gov.scot/news/three-million-people-receive-first-vaccination/>

Protecting Scotland against COVID

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-scotland-against-covid/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on marches and parades

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-marches-and-parades/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 11 May 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-11-2021/>

UK Government Press Release

Most vulnerable offered second dose of COVID-19 vaccine earlier to help protect against variants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-offered-second-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-earlier-to-help-protect-against-variants>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

Guidance: Passenger COVID-19 charter

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/passenger-covid-19-charter>

Prime Minister's statement at coronavirus press conference: 14 May 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-may-2021>

Prime Minister's House of Commons Statement on COVID: 12 May 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-house-of-commons-statement-on-covid-12-may-2021>

Prime Minister's statement at coronavirus press conference: 10 May 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-10-may-2021>

News

Coronavirus impacts Eid celebrations for second year

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19300217.coronavirus-impacts-eid-celebrations-second-year/>

Eid al-Fitr celebrations muted as UK mosques adapt to pandemic

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/13/eid-al-fitr-celebrations-muted-as-uk-mosques-adapt-to-pandemic>

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New Publication

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Guidance – Restarting Fundraising

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/covid-19-guidance-for-charities/8-restarting-fundraising/>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

The role of volunteering and the third sector response to covid-19

(closing date 23 May 2021)

<https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/VolunteeringC19survey>

Patient Safety Commissioner role for Scotland (closing date 28 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-patient-safety-commissioner-role-scotland/>

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Possible changes to the immigration and asylum rules in relation to tribunal reform [in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland] (closing date 14 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-immigration-and-asylum-rules-in-relation-to-tribunal-reform>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

**** closes this week!**

New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project

Closing date 22 May 2021

Scottish Government funding for organisations and community groups across Scotland involved in supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. Projects will enable refugees in Scotland to live in safe, welcoming and cohesive communities where they are able to build diverse relationships and connections; understand their rights, responsibilities and entitlements and exercise these to pursue full and independent lives; access well-coordinated services, which recognise and meet their rights and needs; and ensure their rights, needs and aspirations inform the policy, strategic planning and legislation which impacts upon them. For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-delivery-fund-guidance/pages/background/>

**** Global Majority Fund**

Closing date 17 June 2021

Comic Relief and National Emergencies Trust funding of up to £20,000 to provide support for organisations led by and/or serving Black and minority ethnic communities who are experiencing hardships due to COVID-19, and focussed on addressing COVID-19 needs and priorities among communities experiencing racial inequality. For information see

<https://www.crer.scot/global-majority-fund>

Adapt and Thrive

Running until June 2021

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

**** Public Confidence in Policing: Seldom Heard Communities**

Closing date 1 July 2021

Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and Scottish Police Authority funding for projects and activities which will meet genuine evidence gaps and support Police Scotland to further contact and engagement with all elements of communities in

Scotland, particularly those groups which are seldom heard. For information see <http://sipr.ac.uk/research-activities/seldom-heard-communities-grants>

Vaccine Information Fund

Running until August 2021

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Public confidence in policing within seldom heard groups

19 May 2021 (online, 2.30–4.30)

Police Scotland and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research information-sharing event focussing on understanding seldom heard groups to enable Police Scotland to connect with these communities ensuring their voices are heard; their needs are met; and their perspectives are understood. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/p3am38xr>

Windrush engagement event

25 May 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

Home Office events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

9 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

4 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals, and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

16 June 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

18 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

No Recourse to Public Funds

30 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

**** Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity**

15 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/fsbvp2ac> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Advantage Is Invisible – Understanding Unintentional Discrimination**

3 August 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the nature and patterns of discrimination, focussing on unintentional discrimination, and exploring its prevalence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/u6tb4ext> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Intention Versus Impact – Exploring Challenges Around Group Labels And Unintended Offence**

25 August 2021 (online, 13.30–15.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop exploring the terminology used to describe groups, particularly in relation to protected characteristics such as race, disability, religion and belief. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z7wcfh46> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Debiasing Our Systems, Debiasing Ourselves – An Introduction To Tackling Unconscious Bias**

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamye4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication**

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/27mj9h3b> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021). The theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet and individuals, faith communities and organisations across Scotland will be encouraged to host climate-related events for the week. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> or sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#).

**** 3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in

shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities**

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>*

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>*



*The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>*

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